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AS wherein said repeat unit includes 12 top machine direction yarns and 12
bottom machine direction yarns.

Please cancel Claims 26 and 27.

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given the Official Action dated 18 November 1998 in preparing this response. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the remarks that follow is respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicates that Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 25 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. These claims have been so amended. Additionally, Claims 7 and 24 as amended depend from these claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that each of Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24 and 25 is allowable as amended and allowance of said claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26 and 27 stand rejected under Section 102. Claim 7 stands rejected under Section 103. With the exceptions of Claims 7 and 24 as discussed above, each of these claims has been canceled. The cancellation of the claims is without prejudice to Applicant's right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims. The cancellation of the claims is intended for the purpose of expediting issuance of a patent directed to the subject matter of the claims indicated by the Office Action as allowable, and such cancellation is not intended to be a concession or acquiescence as to the appropriateness of the rejections.

Conclusion

~~The points and concerns raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Official~~
Action having been addressed in full, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner

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have any small matters outstanding for resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

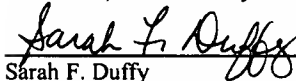


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on 15 January 1999.



Sarah F. Duffy

Date of Signature: 15 January 1999

